

Expanded Wisconsin Fast Forward Technical Education Equipment Grant

Questions and Answers

1. Can you clarify the process and how I apply for the Technical Education Equipment Grant GPA?

Expanded Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) applications must now be submitted through the [Expanded Fast Forward Grant online application system](#).

For more information about the grant program and funding opportunity visit the [Wisconsin Fast Forward web page](#) and scroll down to "Expanded Wisconsin Fast Forward Grants." Below the description and details for "Technical Education Equipment Grants," you will find links to the following important documents:

- The Grant Program Announcement, which provides information on the grant program,
- The grant rubric, which provides the criteria with which applications will be evaluated; and
- The application instructions, which outline how to apply in the online application system.

Please reach out to WisconsinFastForward@dwd.wisconsin.gov if you have any questions

2. What is the percentage of match that is required for this grant? Will you explain how the match works?

As stated on page two of the Grant Program Announcement (GPA), matching funds are required, per Wis. Stat. 106.275(1)(c), and must be in an amount equal to one of the following:

- If the match is contributed from private sources, 100% of the grant amount awarded, except as provided in [subd. 2](#).
- If any of the match is contributed from school district funds, 200% of the grant amount awarded.

A match may be in the form of money or the monetary value of equipment that is contributed to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program from private sources or the applicant, or from both private sources and the applicant during the grant project period.

Identified matching funds must (a) be allowed to be used as match for a grant by the funding source, (b) relate to the project being proposed in the application; and (c) be in the possession of the school's budget during the grant period. The grant period is the timespan occurring between contract execution date (the date the contract is signed by all parties) and contract end date.

Match dollars must be spent on the project described in the application during the grant period.

3. Please clarify public and private match requirements.

If the match is contributed from private sources, 100% of the grant awarded.

If the matching funds are provided from private sources, a 100% match is required. For example, if the school district requested \$100,000 in funding and all the match was coming from the private sources, \$100,000 in match funding would be required.

If any of the match is contributed from school district funds, 200% of the grant amount awarded.

If any match is from school district funds, 200% in matching funds would be required. For example, if the school district requested \$100,000 in funding, the school district would be required to contribute \$200,000 of school district funds to meet the match requirements.

Matching funds must be in the form of money or monetary value of equipment. WFF award funds may be used for the enhancement or improvement of a technical education facility or the acquisition of equipment that is used in advancing manufacturing or construction fields, together with any software necessary for the operation of that equipment and any instructional material necessary to train pupils in the operation of that equipment.

4. May applicants use WFF funding for the construction of auxiliary buildings to house instruction for the applicant?

Potentially. Under the statute, WFF funds must be used for the enhancement or improvement of a technical education facility or for the acquisition of equipment that is used in advanced manufacturing or construction fields in the workplace. If auxiliary buildings are for the enhancement or improvement of a technical education facility, applicants may seek to use WFF funding under this GPA for the construction of those auxiliary buildings. The Technical Education Equipment Grant program is a competitive grant; therefore, please review the GPA and Rubric to make sure your project is proposing to achieve the goals of the program and addresses the areas identified and scored in the Rubric.

5. What are the minimum and maximum grant request amounts?

The minimum funding request is \$5,000. The maximum funding request is \$23,249 per funding availability.

6. Can the full amount of WFF requested funds be used for facility enhancements and renovations?

Yes, WFF funds may be used to fund facility enhancements or improvements to the technical education facility for the full amount of the grant request. The Technical Education Equipment Grant program is a competitive grant; therefore, please review the GPA and Rubric to make sure your project is proposing to achieve the goals of the program and addresses the areas identified and scored in the Rubric.

7. Can the district matching funds be in the form of facility enhancement and renovations costs (not brick and mortar)?

As specified in Wis. Stat. 106.275, the match must be in the form of money or the monetary value of equipment.

8. Can the infrastructure that will take to run the equipment (computers, IT, shop air, etc.) be used for either the WFF funds or matching funds?

For the Technical Education Equipment grant, WFF funds are to be used for the enhancement or improvement of a technical education facility or the acquisition of equipment that is used in advancing manufacturing or construction fields, together with any software necessary for the operation of that equipment and any instructional material necessary to train pupils in the operation

of that equipment. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 106.275, matching funds must be in the form of money or the monetary value of equipment.

- 9. We have earned a CTE Incentive Grant that we want to use as part of our matching funds. The dollars are in our account now and can be spent how we choose. Is it a possibility to use these dollars as Match?**

You may use CTE Incentive Grant funds that have been paid to and received by schools by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as Match. Perkins Grant funds, donated funds, or funds allocated in a budget, or a passed referendum are some other funding types that are allowable as Match, as long as the funds are in the district's budget or account during the grant period.

- 10. We are determining if we are going to write for another WFF grant. It does not appear we can use an instructor's salary as a match beyond their training and any admin oversight, is that correct?**

Teacher salary would not be an allowable match expense.

Grant funds may supplement existing funds but may not supplant existing funds. This also applies to the match. Teacher salary is an existing local expense – the school district pays that teacher a salary to conduct teaching activities, whether or not there is a grant. Therefore, use of the teacher salary as a match would be considered supplanting, as the salary is not a new, unique expense that is incurred specifically in support of the proposal.

- 11. Are private schools eligible to apply for the Technical Education Equipment Grant GPA?**

While they may partner with a school district for use of the equipment, under the statute, private schools are not eligible to apply for the grant. Eligible applicants are a Wisconsin school district or a consortium consisting of multiple Wisconsin school districts.